



Girl Scout Glossary

Have you heard from your SUM? When is your troop’s investiture? Are you making S.W.A.P.S. tonight? Have you been to the birthplace?

Sometimes it seems like Girl Scouts are speaking a different language. Here’s a glossary of some of the most common Girl Scout words and phrases.

Birthplace	The childhood home of Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia.
Badges	Official awards are worn on the front of the sash or vest.
Bridging	When Girl Scouts graduate from one grade level to another.
Buddy System	A safety practice of pairing girls by twos (a “truddy” is a pairing of three), often useful on field trips and outings.
Court of Awards	A ceremony to present badges and earned recognitions, typically held at the end of the school year.
Founder’s Day	Juliette Gordon Low’s birthday—October 31.
Friendship Circle	Girl Scouts and adults stand in a circle holding hands, right arm over left arm, which stands for the unbroken chain of friendship of Girl Scouts/Girl Guides around the world.
Friendship Squeeze	In a friendship circle, one person gently squeezes the hand of the next person, and the squeeze is silently passed around the circle.
Fly Up	When Brownies bridge to Juniors, it’s called “flying up” and they earn their Brownie wings. Brownies who fly up can wear their wings on their uniform at every program grade level.
Girl Led	Girl Scouts at every level take an active role in planning what, where, when, why and how they structure activities with adult guidance. Evaluation of activities is done jointly with Girl Scouts and is integral to a high-quality Girl Scout experience.
Girl Guides	The name of Girl Scouts outside of the United States and the original name for Girl Scouts until 1913.
Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma (GSEOK)	The name of our council.
Girl Scout Handshake	The formal way of greeting other Girl Scouts by shaking with the left hand, while giving the Girl Scout sign with the right hand.
Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)	The three keys to the GSLE: Girl Scouts discover themselves and others; connect with others; and take action to make the world a better place. Activities are girl-led, which gives Girl Scouts the opportunity to learn by doing in a cooperative learning environment.

Girl Scout Sign	Official Girl Scout greeting. The right hand is raised shoulder high with the three middle fingers extended, the thumb crossing over the palm to hold down the little finger.
Girl Scout Week	An annual celebration during the week of March 12 (the Girl Scout Birthday) to celebrate the beginning of Girl Scouts in the USA.
Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA)	National organization of Girl Scouts headquartered in New York, NY.
Hardesty Leadership Center (HLC)	Our council office in Tulsa, OK.
Highest Awards	Awards that a Junior (Bronze), Cadette (Silver), and Senior/ Ambassador (Gold) can earn by completing a specific Take Action Project.
Insignia	Official emblem, buttons, badges, and pins worn on the uniform.
Investiture	A special ceremony in which a new member accepts the Girl Scout Promise and Law and receives a membership pin.
Juliette Gordon Low	The founder of the Girl Scout movement in the United States. Also known as Daisy to her family. October 31, 1860-January 17, 1927
Kaper Chart	A chart of jobs within the troop that rotates so that each girl does each job.
Program Guide	Online digital planning tool for your year.
Patches/Fun Patches	Unofficial recognitions that are worn on the back of the uniform.
Program Aide	Older Girl Scout (Cadette-Ambassadors) focused on building leadership skills and mentoring younger Girl Scouts.
Quiet Sign	Signal for silence in a group situation. Raise your right hand and Girl Scouts fall silent and raise their right hand also.
Rededication	When a Girl Scout renews their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
Service Project	A project that is done FOR the community and addresses an immediate, short-term need.
Service Unit (SU)	Geographic area within a region led by experienced volunteers.
Service Unit Manager (SUM)	An experienced volunteer who manages the local service unit and provides leader support.
Sit Upon	A lightweight pad to sit on when the ground is damp.
Slogan and Motto	The Girl Scout slogan is “do a good turn daily.” The Girl Scout motto is “be prepared.”
S.W.A.P.S.	Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere. A traditional Girl Scout keepsake that tells something about the giver, or their community, country, or state.
Take Action Project	A project that is done WITH the community and addresses the root cause of a community issue and has long-term impact.
Trefoil	International symbol of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. The trefoil represents the three parts of the Girl Scout promise.

Troop Dues	Money Girl Scouts bring to meetings or to kick off the year to help cover the cost of basic supplies. Each troop decides if dues will be collected and how much, taking into consideration families' economic situation.
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)	Worldwide organization of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts with over 146 member countries. W.A.G.G.G.S. Headquarters is in London, England.
World Trefoil Pin	The official insignia showing membership in W.A.G.G.G.S.
World Thinking Day	Celebrated since 1926, World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship, speaking out on issues that affect girls, and fundraising.